

One year ago, January 29, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$4,987,704,000,000.

Five years ago, January 29, 1992, the Federal debt stood at \$3,799,219,000,000.

Ten years ago, January 29, 1987, the Federal debt stood at \$2,222,608,000,000.

Fifteen years ago, January 29, 1982, the Federal debt stood at \$1,038,379,000,000 which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion (\$4,281,196,822,990.65) during the past 15 years.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL TSONGAS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I stand here today to pay tribute to Paul Tsongas, one of the most courageous men and of the greatest humanitarians that I have had the honor of serving with in the U.S. Senate.

Paul Tsongas' work for his fellow man did not start nor stop here in Washington. Before he even dreamed of running for elected office, he donated his time to the Peace Corps, serving in Ethiopia and the West Indies.

But whether it was Ethiopia or Washington, DC, Paul Tsongas left his mark wherever he went.

In his hometown of Lowell, MA, one only needs to look at the Lowell National Historical Park to realize what he meant to his fellow citizens of that historical New England town.

He only served in the Senate for one term. But in just his second year, he led the efforts to pass the Alaska Lands Act of 1980 which has been recognized as one of the most important pieces of conservation legislation in history.

When diagnosed with lymphoma, he left the Senate to spend more time with his family. But he did not give in to his cancer. He fought it with the tenacity that those of us who knew him would only come to expect.

After undergoing experimental surgery to beat the cancer, he felt even more compelled to donate his life to helping his fellow citizens. One person he helped was my close friend Bill Gray. Bill, suffering from cancer, was constantly encouraged and cheered by Paul.

As we all remember, his remarkable run for President as an advocate for a balanced budget in 1992 helped shape America's political agenda.

After contributing to the campaign in a losing effort, he co-founded the Concord Coalition to advocate a balanced budget. Since then, the deficit has been cut in half and the Concord Coalition has become one of the most well respected bipartisan organizations in Washington.

Paul Tsongas will be remembered here in Washington and in his hometown of Lowell not only for his work as a legislator but for his work as a father, a husband, and a humanitarian.

My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Niki, and his daughters Ashley, Katina, and Molly.

U.S. FOREIGN OIL CONSUMPTION: HERE'S WEEKLY BOX SCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, one troubling aspect of our determining national security is the manner in which the United States has become more and more deeply dependent upon foreign countries to supply the bulk of our energy needs for the American people.

I was holding hearings on this perilous situation a decade ago when I was chairman of the Agriculture Committee; and again this past Congress in my present capacity as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The administration does acknowledge that this is a national security concern, but, the administration has done precisely nothing about U.S. dependency on foreign oil.

Mr. President, the American Petroleum Institute reports that for the week ending January 24, the U.S. imported 7,840,000 barrels of oil, 945,000 barrels more than the 6,895,000 imported during the same week a year ago.

To put it another way, Americans relied on foreign oil for 54.7 percent of their needs last week, and there are no signs that the upward spiral will abate. Before the Persian Gulf war, the United States obtained approximately 45 percent of its oil supply from foreign countries. During the Arab oil embargo in the 1970's, foreign oil accounted for only 35 percent of America's oil supply.

Which raises the inevitable questions: is anybody else interested in restoring domestic production of oil—by U.S. producers using American workers? Politicians would do well to ponder the economic calamity certain to occur in America if and when foreign producers shut off our supply—or double the already enormous cost of imported oil flowing into the United States—now 7,840,000 barrels a day.

Mr. President, as I say, I shall continue to report to the Senate—and to the American people—on a regular basis regarding the increasingly dangerous U.S. dependency on foreign oil.

CPSC CHAIRMAN ANN BROWN BRINGS CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY MESSAGE TO NEVADANS

Mr. BRYAN. Mr. President, last month U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Chairman, Ann Brown, came to Nevada to deliver her vital safety messages to my constituents in Las Vegas and Reno. Her timely visit, just before the holidays, when many people are preparing their homes for visits by friends and relatives, reminded the citizens of my State of the practical things they can do to keep their homes safe.

In Las Vegas, we visited the home of Ms. Lori Black. Lori and her husband Mike are the parents of eight children. As we toured their home with Lori and her youngest daughter Leslie Mika and oldest daughter Ann, Chairman Brown reviewed the CPSC's baby safety

checklist and found that they had done an excellent job of making their home safe for children.

In Reno, we visited the home of Lisa and Scott Anderson and their daughter Lyndsey Sue. There, Chairman Brown was able to point out that their baby crib passed the soda can test. She demonstrated that a soda can is useful to measure the spaces between the slats in a baby's crib. If the soda can cannot go through the slats, then the crib is baby safe.

Chairman Brown also demonstrated the importance of clipping the loop at the end of venetian blind cords. She told us in the past 14 years, 173 children had strangled in the loops of curtain and blind cords, but that as a result of a voluntary agreement she secured from the blind cord industry, manufacturers are now installing safety tassels at the end of their cords. She commended the Andersons for making their home safe for a baby by putting all medicines on an upper shelf far from a baby's curious hands and having no baby clothes with strings or cords.

In both Las Vegas and Reno, the homes contained smoke alarms, but lacked carbon monoxide detectors. Chairman Brown emphasized to both families the necessity of these devices. Every year, about 200 people die from carbon monoxide poisoning, and thousands are treated in hospital emergency rooms. With the installation of CO detectors and annual appliance inspections, these deaths and injuries can be prevented.

I want to commend Chairman Brown for her valuable work promoting consumer product safety in Nevada and across the country. The baby safety program she initiated is a model of the way business and government can work together as partners to advance the public interest.

The Gerber Products Co. underwrote the costs of printing the materials for the baby safety program. This has allowed the CPSC to make the baby safety checklist and other helpful materials available to thousands of people throughout the country.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission is a small agency with a big mission—to keep families safe in their homes and at play. It is also one of the taxpaying public's best bargains in government. CPSC's \$42.5 million budget, about 16 cents per capita, helps to attack the \$200 billion in annual societal costs and about \$30 billion in direct medical costs. Thus, every dollar appropriated to CPSC has the potential to address about \$5,000 in societal costs and about \$600 in direct medical costs. As one example, the CPSC's work in making sure baby cribs are safe and removing unsafe cribs from the market has reduced crib-related deaths from 200 annually to less than 50 deaths per year. That one project alone saves society nearly \$1 billion a year—or almost 25 times the CPSC's current annual budget.

But the CPSC is most concerned with saving lives and reducing injuries and